

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2010

Via Electronic Transmittal

Mr. Merril A. Miller Jr.
Chief Executive Officer and President
National Oilwell Varco
7909 Parkwood Circle Dr.
Houston, TX 77036

Dear Mr. Miller:

We understand that National Oilwell Varco (NOV) is withholding information that would greatly assist in understanding the events immediately leading up to the loss of well control that resulted in the Deepwater Horizon explosion and the subsequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. As Congress and the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling continue to investigate the BP oil spill, it is essential that all information regarding the accident be made available to investigators in order to fully understand the causes of the incident and to craft recommendations that will prevent another disaster like the BP spill.

We understand that you have information that would greatly assist in understanding the events immediately leading up to the loss of well control that resulted in the Deepwater Horizon explosion and the subsequent spill. Specifically, National Oilwell Varco provided proprietary data displays used by the Deepwater Horizon drilling crew to monitor the well. These displays were lost in the explosion and sinking of the rig, but the data used to generate these displays has been retained and provided to the National Commission.

National Oilwell Varco (NOV) holds the key to reading this data in as it was displayed on board the rig. Access to NOV's proprietary Hi-Tech software, combined with conversion of the relevant data into a format that is compatible with such software, should allow simulation of the displays at the time of the event. This re-creation should provide an important window into the accident.

We understand that the National Commission has asked you for this data and that you have not provided it to date. We are writing to request that you provide this data immediately to us and the National Commission.

As you may know, we have sponsored, and the House has passed, legislation to give the National Commission subpoena power so that it can do its job properly. Your refusal to provide extremely relevant information is yet another example of why the National Commission should be given that power---which could in the end save lives and protect our environment from dangerous spills. We will continue to urge that Congress


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and the President enact such legislation. If Congress is not able to enact such legislation, it will be up to those who do have subpoena authority, including the Congress, to make sure the true facts of the BP spill are placed into the public domain. We remain steadfast in our determination to ensure that happens.

We would appreciate your reply no later than one week from the time that you receive this letter via electronic transmittal. Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff on Mr. Markey's staff at 202-225-2836.


EDWARD J. MARKEY
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


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Member of Congress